

Maricopa County Community Services Commission

Maricopa County Human Services Department

234 N. Central, 3rd Floor Conference Room

Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Monday, April 25, 2005

6:00 P.M.

Minutes

Members Present:

Chair – Councilman Ray Shuey, City of Avondale
Vice Chair - Councilman Fred Hull, Town of Gila Bend
Councilwoman Kathie Farr, City of Tolleson
Councilman Larry Morrison, Town of Gilbert

Walter Gray, St. Vincent de Paul
Barbara Webster, Southwest Low-Income Rep.
Joe Blanton, Southwest Low-Income Representative
Robert Morehouse, Senior Citizens Council Maricopa County

Terri Cruz, Chicanos por la Causa

Members Absent:

Mark Bratman, The Salvation Army	Excused
Louise Moskowitz, APS	Excused
Marty Sonnenberg, Salt River Project	Excused
Gloria de Tevis	Excused

Sarah Bravo-Palma, Eastside Low-income Representative	Unexcused
Councilman Steven E. Frate, City of Glendale	Unexcused
Councilwoman Margarita Cota, Town of Guadalupe	Unexcused
Councilman Hut Hutson, City of Tempe	Unexcused

Presenters/Staff/Guests Present:

Staff:

Margarita Leyvas, Community Services Division
Mindy Wakefield, Community Services Division
Virginia Sturgill Community Services Division

Presenters:

Ginny Hildebrand, Association of Arizona Food Banks
Yvonne Seel Community Services Division
Cecelia Robles, Community Services Division

Guests

Racel Aleman, Chandler CAP
Dolores Hull

1. OPENING

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by the Chairman, Councilman Ray Shuey.

B. Roll Call/Introductions

Virginia Sturgill called roll. Nine of seventeen seated members were present; a quorum was established. The following members were absent and asked to be excused: Mark Bratman, Marty Sonnenberg, Gloria de Tevis and Louis Moskowitz.

Councilwoman Farr made a motion to excuse the absences. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hull. The vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

C. Opening Prayer

Councilman Fred Hull led the prayer.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

Joe Blanton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

E. Approval of Minutes

Robert Morehouse made a motion to accept the minutes of the 3/28/05 meeting. The motion was seconded by Sister Barbara Webster. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

2. Business

A. Directors Report

Marge Leyvas reported on CSD staff meetings and activities:

- Introduced CSD staff and guest Racel Aleman.
- 3000 Peoples Resource Kits (PERKs) were assembled on March 31st. CAP staff and CSD staff participated in assembling the PERKs. Breakfast was sponsored by SRP, Lunch was sponsored by APS & SWG.
- Arizona Community Action Association & Association of Arizona Food Banks ACAA/AAFB held the 3rd Annual Joint Conference on April 7 & 8. The conference was a success, great speakers like Ivan Makil and Lattie Coor. The conference was well attended.
- Mindy and Virginia were recognized for their contributions as members of the conference planning committee.
- CSD staff attended SRP's 10th Annual Appreciation Luncheon for caseworkers. The theme was *The 50's*. Staff joined in the fun and wore matching pink shirts, with *Pink Ladies* written on the back, tennis and bobby socks. The event was a lot of fun.
- This Department of Economic Security has released a Request For Applications (RFA) for the community action program funding. The application is due Thursday, April 28th. Staff have worked on the application and it will be submitted on Tuesday, April 26th.
- A \$3 million settlement from El Paso Natural Gas will come to Arizona. The funds are to be used for utility assistance in a similar fashion to LIHEAP. DES received the funds. The Arizona Community Action Association has requested that DES hold public meetings for input on the use of these funds. DES will hold three public focus group meetings with designated Community Action Agencies and other identified participants. Attendance will be limited to 15 participants. Marge stated that Fuel Fund experts have been invited to present information at the meetings. The meeting locations are Flagstaff, Tucson and Phoenix. MCHSD/CSD is hosting the Phoenix meeting to be held May 23rd @ 1:00 p.m. Marge reported that she provided DES with a list of participants she would like to be included in the focus group. Marge stated that she suggested that a low-income representative from the commission and a representative from St. Vincent de Paul and Salvation Army be included in the focus group because they also provide utility assistance. DES will determine the final list of invitees by May 3. More information will be provided later.

- A National Fuel Funds Network *Energy Safety Net* bulleting #71 was distributed. The Bulletin provides an up-date on LIHEAP and information on other Fuel Funds

**B. Presentation on
Association of
Arizona Food Banks**

Ginny Hildebrand, Executive Director of the Association of Arizona Food Banks provided an update on hunger in Arizona.

Currently there are approximately 800,000 people per year request emergency food assistance. An additional 750,000 people in Arizona are between 100% to 185% of poverty level. This population is often called *The Working Poor* and often has unmet emergency food needs. In 2004, over 156 million pounds of food were distributed. Ginny reported that if all hunger needs in Arizona were met, a second food bank distribution system would have to be established. Ginny states that it is important that people have food security needs met and eventually have food self-sufficiency. People have to have a livable wage or sustainable income and affordable healthcare.

Ginny shared that participants of the ACAA/AAFB Joint Conference identified strategies to begin focusing on the next steps towards eliminating poverty. Questions posed to conference participants included: What does it take? How to get there? Who needs to be involved? How to gather resources?

Ginny provided information from the Food Research and Action Center for US and AZ. She shared the following information regarding Arizona:

- 12.3 % of households are food insecure
- 3.8% households are food insecure with hunger
- 1 in 5 children live in poverty
- Arizona has a higher percentage of children in poverty than the number of children that are in poverty in the US.
- 46-56% of eligible persons are receiving food stamps.
- 508,000 people are receiving Food Stamps while there are potentially 1,000,000 eligible to receive food stamps.
- approximately 50% of all children that attend school are eligible for the free or reduced lunch program.

More people need to be informed about their eligibility to the Food Stamp program. Ginny stated that www.arizonaselfhelp.org is a great way for people to learn if they are eligible for programs. Ginny provided information on HB 2782 and SB 1409. The bills require schools that apply for extended all day kindergarten verify 100% of all free/reduced meal program applications. The school will have to forfeit all funds received that year for the kindergarten meals and will not be eligible to receive funds in the future if the Auditor General conducts an audit and finds there are any issues regarding eligibility. Ginny stated that this is a severe penalty when there could be many reasons that income could not be verified. Ginny reported that resources such as computer labs, special grants and, and special tutoring are located based of the number of free/reduced meal programs in the area. Ginny encouraged Commission members to contact their legislators and inform them of the negative impacts of HB2782 AND SB1409.

Ginny announced that the Emergency Food Providers Directory will

be available online. This is a great resource and provides a list of over 300 food providers in the state.

C. Information on CAP Expenditures

Yvonne Seel, Program Specialist provided information on CAP expenditures for July 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005.

- 3,392 unduplicated households were provided Direct Financial Assistance,
- 92 unduplicated households were provided Housing Assistance,
- \$1,792,096 has been expended over the past 9 months.

Cecelia Robles, Emergency Assistance Specialist, provided information on CAP client services. The MCHSD/CSD Data Flex Reporting System provides reports on all CAP services. Cecelia provided information on the number of clients served and the types of services provided, such as: referrals; the numbers of clients enrolled in utility & phone discounts; the number of goods provided; and non-financial services provided. The reporting system also collects client demographics for each household. The total number of CAP clients served over the past nine months is 7,702. Marge added that the CAPs provide more than financial assistance and weatherization and repair/replace. Marge commented that 60-70% of the recipients of weatherization are elderly or disabled households. Walter Grey commented that at least half of the home visits he conducts are to individuals that are disabled.

Ginny shared that the state legislature has zeroed out General Assistance in the budget. Individuals on GA are usually waiting for their Social Security Disability to start. If GA is eliminated, these individuals have no income at all. Ginny encouraged Commission members to talk to their legislators in support of maintaining GA in the state budget.

3. Closing

A. Board Remarks & Announcements

None

B. Call to the Public

o None

C. Adjournment

Councilman Morrison made a motion to adjourn, motion seconded by Councilman Hull. Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.
Next meeting Monday, May 23rd at 6:00 PM